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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2228 (2015), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2016 and requested me to report every 90 days on the implementation of the mission's mandate. In addition to the special report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2016/510), which provides a conflict analysis, an update on the political situation and a recommendation for mandate renewal, the present report covers events in Darfur since the date of publication of my previous report (S/2015/1027), from 22 March until 15 June 2016. It presents the achievements of UNAMID in implementing its strategic priorities, endorsed by the Council in resolutions 2148 (2014), 2173 (2014) and 2228 (2015), and in achieving its revised benchmarks (see S/2014/279 and resolution 2228 (2015)). It also highlights the main challenges to effective mandate implementation, the transfer of tasks to the United Nations country team and the exit strategy.

II. Security situation

Fighting between government forces and rebel groups

2. Fighting between government forces and Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) elements continued in parts of the Jebel Marra throughout the reporting period. Clashes were reported in areas north-east of Nertiti, Central Darfur, on 22 and 23 March and 1 and 4 April, with government forces allegedly attacking the villages of Kwila, Kadingo, Koron, Solow, Hilat Tusug, Boringakari and Mari. Aerial bombardments were also reported in the area, including in Jokosti, Miela, and Daginja around Golo between 4 and 18 March and Sarrong between 17 March and 9 April. The Government also launched air strikes south-east of Nertiti in the villages of Galol, Jaro, Dirma and Dirsa on 23 March, as a result of which two children were reportedly injured.

3. In the vicinity of Golo, east of Nertiti, SLA/AW elements ambushed a convoy of the Sudanese Armed Forces on 4 April. The Government responded with aerial bombardments in Golo and Guldo on 8 and 9 April, while its forces attacked Togay

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and other villages south-west of Guldo and west of Golo. To the north-east of Golo, the attack by government forces against the local population in Rockero on 8 and 9 April reportedly resulted in 90 casualties. According to local sources, the Sudanese Armed Forces and Military Intelligence prevented civilians from fleeing the fighting in Guldo and Nertiti. On 8 April, government forces reportedly captured Sarrong, south of Golo, but on 9 April, SLA/AW allegedly attacked a convoy of border guards near Golo.

4. In Golol, south-east of Nertiti, fighting between government forces and SLA/AW was reported on 28 April. On 7 May, the Government reportedly dropped 18 bombs there, followed by clashes with SLA/AW forces on 8 May. On 10 May, UNAMID personnel in Nertiti witnessed government aircraft flying over the Jebel Marra and subsequently heard explosions in the mountain area.

5. On 29 and 30 May, a government aircraft reportedly dropped several bombs in Kutrum, east of Nertiti, after which SLA/AW forces allegedly attacked a Sudanese Armed Forces position in the area on 30 May. A total of 9 SLA/AW members and 12 Sudanese soldiers were reportedly killed in the clash. On 5 June, UNAMID received further reports from local sources of aerial bombardments and fighting in Kutrum, as a result of which 10 civilians were killed.

6. In South Darfur, on 21 April, UNAMID was informed by local sources that government forces had attacked Feina and surrounding areas near Kass on 15 March and killed 42 civilians.

7. With respect to other rebel movements, much as in previous reporting periods, there was no report of military engagement involving government forces and the Justice and Equality Movement. On 21 April, the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minnawi (SLA/MM) faction claimed that it had repulsed an attack by government forces in Wadi Maghreb, North Darfur.

Local conflicts and intercommunal violence

8. The security situation in East Darfur deteriorated in April with a series of incidents, including two attacks against its governor, by Southern Rezeigat militias. Following the theft of camels by Southern Rezeigat from Ma'alia in the village of Tortahan on 15 April, Rezeigat attacked Ma'alia community leaders on 17 April who had gathered at a police station to discuss the issue. In the exchange of fire, seven Ma'alia, four government security personnel and nine Rezeigat were killed. The following day, Rezeigat attacked the residence of the governor in Ed Daein, who was absent at the time, and four of his guards and two assailants were killed in the ensuing firefight. Sudanese Armed Forces reinforcements were deployed to contain the situation. On 25 April, the governor's residence was attacked again, and a civilian was killed. The Government established a panel to investigate the incidents, but, on 11 May, an attempt by government security forces to arrest an individual allegedly involved in the attack against the governor reportedly led to a heavy exchange of gunfire and the withdrawal of the government forces.

9. The flight of internally displaced persons from the Jebel Marra also changed the local dynamics. In Sortony, North Darfur, Northern Rezeigat carried out a series of attacks from 2 to 15 May against the internally displaced persons who had arrived recently from the Jebel Marra, accusing them of stealing their cattle and of being affiliated with SLA/AW. On 9 May, Rezeigat raided the camp for internally

displaced persons in Sortony, killing six internally displaced persons and injuring six others, including a UNAMID peacekeeper. UNAMID apprehended two of the assailants, who were handed over to the government authorities.

10. In West Darfur, tensions between Northern Rezeigat and Massalit originating in disputes over *diya* (blood money) culminated into an exchange of fire in Azerni on 22 May, which claimed 10 lives, including that of a Sudanese soldier. The government offices in El Geneina, including those of the State Governor (*Wali*), were closed until military and police forces were deployed to contain the situation.

11. UNAMID recorded six other clashes, which resulted in 36 fatalities. In West Darfur, a dispute over land between Massalit and Dago on 21 April resulted in the death of a Dago. In North Darfur, a clash between an unidentified armed group and cattle herders between 24 and 25 April claimed 28 lives in total, and Massalit attacked Northern Rezeigat near Sereif and killed two of them in an armed robbery. In East Darfur, a fight over cattle between Habaniya and Rezeigat on 23 April resulted in the death of two Habaniya, disputes over access to farmland between Ma'alia and Zaghawa led to the death of a Zaghawa on 7 April, and a clash over farmland between Birgid and Rezeigat resulted in the death of three Rezeigat and two Birgid between 28 and 29 April.

Crime and banditry

12. A total of 786 criminal incidents and 179 casualities were recorded during the reporting period, in an increase from 505 incidents and 126 casualties in the previous period. The most common crimes were armed robbery (123 cases), attempted robbery (26 cases), assault/harassment (251 cases), burglary/break-ins (48 cases), looting (18 cases), abduction (40 cases), arson (9 cases), shooting (131 cases), attack/ambush (34 cases), threat (44 cases), livestock theft (40 cases) and others (22 cases).

13. Attacks on internally displaced persons and civilians by armed nomads, militia groups and other criminal elements increased during the reporting period, resulting in 281 civilian fatalities compared with 97 in the previous period. The upsurge in violence has been a continuous trend since the previous period and is attributable to the role of armed militias in the ongoing military campaign in the Jebel Marra.

14. In Central Darfur, armed militias entered and began shooting in the Thur East and Hassahisa internally displaced persons camps on 30 April and 9 May, respectively, injuring an internally displaced person in each case. Shots were fired in the vicinity of the Khamsadagaig, Habad East and Straina internally displaced persons camps on 9 April, 29 March and 19 May, respectively. In South Darfur, unidentified assailants opened fire in the Kalma internally displaced persons camp on 30 April and 7 and 11 May, which resulted in an injury.

15. In North Darfur, an armed group reportedly attacked a village near Sortony on 25 March, burning houses and killing an undetermined number of civilians. In addition, on 20 May, some 50 armed Arab nomads raided the village of Sigilli, firing randomly. Internally displaced persons were also killed in other criminal incidents, including in Mujajeria, Al Neem, East Darfur; Kalma, Al Salam camp, Dereige and Kass, South Darfur; and Tawilla, North Darfur.

16. Incidents of assault and harassment of internally displaced persons and civilians also increased from 110 during the previous reporting period to 127 in the

period under review. In addition, internally displaced persons were arrested by the government authorities without specific charges. On 15 May, Military Intelligence arrested two internally displaced persons in Kass, South Darfur, including a secretary-general of the internally displaced persons leadership committee, for unknown reasons. On 23 May, the National Intelligence and Security Services detained a sheikh from the Thur camp, Central Darfur, whose whereabouts remain unknown. Seven other sheikhs remain missing. On the same day, another internally displaced person from the Kalma camp, South Darfur, was arrested by Military Intelligence in Nyala. On 29 May, a resident of the Thur camp, South Darfur, was also arrested by the National Intelligence and Security Services and Military Intelligence.

17. During the reporting period, there were also several attacks against government installations by armed militias. In Central Darfur, a police station in Bindisi was attacked on 8 April by some 150 armed Arabs from the Nawaiba clan in retaliation for one of its members having been killed the day before while attempting to free another member from detention. In South Darfur, on 27 April, militias associated with the Rapid Support Forces exchanged fire with the police in Nyala, and a civilian was injured by a stray bullet. In North Darfur, on 3 June, unidentified armed men attacked a police station in Saraf Umra and freed five detainees. In West Darfur, on 16 May, during a meeting to discuss the killing of Arab men near a Sudanese Armed Forces base, Arab nomads held hostage for several hours the locality commissioner, commanders of the Sudanese Armed Forces and Sudanese police, and members of the security committee in Habila.

III. Political developments

18. The national dialogue was launched on 10 October 2015, notwithstanding a boycott by many opposition parties and armed movements. The dialogue deliberations were concluded through six committees dealing with peace and unity, the economy, the governance and implementation of the outcome of the dialogue, external relations, identity and culture and freedom and basic rights. Some of the recommendations reportedly included the establishment of a four-year national reconciliation government and a constitutional review. On 9 May, the committees announced that their reports were ready for submission to the President, but a date is yet to be announced for the consideration of their recommendations.

19. Consultations between the Government and non-signatory armed movements continued, without yielding an agreed-upon outcome. From 18 to 21 March, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel convened a meeting between the Government and members of the Sudan Call coalition in Addis Ababa with a view to reaching a cessation of hostilities agreement and a consensus on the way forward on the national dialogue. During the meeting, the Government signed a road map agreement presented by the Panel which, among others, called for a meeting between the coordination body known as the Higher Coordinative Committee for National Dialogue and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, together with other opposition parties, to consider steps that should be taken to achieve inclusivity in the dialogue. The opposition refused to sign it, however. On 21 April, the Sudan Call coalition held a meeting in Paris and reaffirmed its opposition to the road map, while declaring an extension for an additional six months of its unilateral cessation of hostilities, initially declared in September 2015, and calling upon the

Panel to facilitate a meeting with the Government to implement the cessation of hostilities.

20. A referendum to determine the administrative status of Darfur, in accordance with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur between the Government and the Liberation and Justice Movement, was held from 11 to 13 April, as scheduled. Non-signatory movements and the majority of internally displaced persons continued to reject the referendum. Peaceful demonstrations against the referendum was held in internally displaced person camps in Sortony, North Darfur, on 25 March; Kalma, South Darfur, from 2 to 5 April; and Hamidiya, Hassahisa and Khamsadagaig, Central Darfur, on 10 and 11 April. Students staged a peaceful demonstration in front of El Fasher University on 11 April and were dispersed by the Sudanese police.

21. Voting proceeded without major incidents, except for the assault and injury by the police of a representative of the Darfur Regional Administration who reported witnessing irregularities in East Darfur. The League of Arab States, the African Union and some Member States deployed observers. On 24 April, the Darfur Referendum Commission announced that 90.7 per cent of registered voters had turned out to cast a ballot, and 97.72 per cent of them had voted for administering Darfur through the current five-state system rather than reverting to the status of Darfur as a single region.

22. On 13 June, the Government announced the dissolution of the Darfur Regional Authority, the term of which had been extended by presidential decree until July 2016, following its expiration in 2015, as provided for in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. This follows, according to the Government, the implementation of most of the provisions of the Doha Document, including the Darfur administrative referendum in April. In its announcement, the Government reiterated its previous position that the commissions and funds established under the Doha Document would continue to function under the authority of the presidency to ensure the full implementation of outstanding issues, such as the work of the Darfur Land Commission. The Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur and the Implementation Follow-up Commission of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, headed by Qatar, would also be retained.

IV. Humanitarian situation

23. Displacements caused by the ongoing military action in the Jebel Marra area continued to generate significant humanitarian needs in North, Central and South Darfur. The influx of South Sudanese into East and South Darfur also required a humanitarian response. In Darfur, humanitarian partners had verified, as at the beginning of June, that some 80,000 people had fled from the Jebel Marra. In addition, there have been unconfirmed reports of up to 127,000 additional people being displaced. That number has not yet been verified by humanitarian partners, owing to lack of access.

Jebel Marra

24. In North Darfur, the humanitarian response continued to focus on some 58,000 internally displaced persons gathered at Sortony, Tawilla, Kabkabiya and Shangil Tobaya. In Central Darfur, limited access allowed international humanitarian

partners to register only 4,295 new internally displaced persons at the Hassahisa and Hameedia camps. The Sudanese authorities meanwhile reported that an additional 58,000 people had been displaced in Nertiti, Thur, Guldo and Golo. Unconfirmed reports continued to indicate that up to 53,000 people had been displaced in other locations, including Boori and the Wadi Boori area, the villages of Daya and Fanga Suk, the town of Rockero and the Thur East camp. Verification of these figures has not been possible, owing to movement restrictions.

25. In April, the Government reportedly conducted assessments in North and Central Darfur. International humanitarian partners were not involved in the exercise, and its findings have not yet been made available. On 30 May, the Government presented a plan to facilitate the return of internally displaced persons to the Jebel Marra and reported that 11,500 people had returned from Guldo to Golo, to their villages, and been provided with some food and non-food items. Humanitarian actors have approached the Government to discuss the plan and opportunities to support it in a coordinated manner and in line with humanitarian principles, including dignity, safety and voluntary return.

26. In April, for the first time since the beginning of the ongoing military operation in the Jebel Marra, the World Food Programme (WFP) obtained access to conduct, through partners, general food distribution to 14,000 newly internally displaced persons at Thur, Guldo and Nertiti. However, independent needs assessments have not been carried out owing to the lack of clearance.

27. In South Darfur, 18,000 internally displaced persons have been verified at the town of Kass, the Otash camp, the villages of Mershing and Menawashi, the town of El Malam and the village of Deribat, with a further estimated 10,000 yet to be verified. Humanitarian partners currently have access to all locations of displacement except Deribat and the surroundings of Kass, to which they still do not have access, despite having repeatedly requested it since the beginning of the crisis.

Influx of South Sudanese

28. Since the previous reporting period, there has been an additional influx of more than 10,000 South Sudanese refugees into East and South Darfur, who are mainly driven by hunger caused by the conflict in South Sudan, bringing the total number of refugee arrivals in 2016 to 52,000. Since the beginning of the year, more than 5,000 people have been registered at the Bielel camp in South Darfur. In East Darfur, some 29,000 people have arrived at the Khor Omer camp in Ed Daein, while an additional 17,500 have reportedly arrived at another seven localities.

V. Operating environment

Attacks against, restrictions of movement of, and denial of access for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

29. UNAMID personnel and property continued to be targeted by individual perpetrators and armed criminal elements. A total of 60 criminal incidents, comprising 21 incidents of break-ins, burglary and theft, 3 incidents of threats, 3 assaults, 3 robberies and 2 incidents of attempted theft, 2 shooting incidents, 4 carjacking incidents, 1 abduction of a UNAMID truck driver, 16 incidents of stone-throwing at UNAMID vehicles, 1 incident of an attack against the team site of

UNAMID and 4 incidents of damage to the assets and properties of the United Nations, were recorded, in comparison with 21 incidents in the previous reporting period.

30. The Sudanese security agencies, most notably the National Intelligence and Security Services and Military Intelligence, restricted patrols and flights by UNAMID especially those relating to the Jebel Marra, on multiple occasions, citing insecurity or lack of prior authorization. From 4 to 14 April, the National Intelligence and Security Services in Nertiti, Central Darfur, stopped all movements of UNAMID, except for water collection, citing security reasons. They allowed logistical convoys and water collection patrols to resume on 14 April, while all others remained suspended. On 27 April, the Services in Zalengei, Central Darfur, refused clearance for a UNAMID mission to Guldo, Golo and Sarrong, scheduled to be conducted from 27 April to 1 May. In West Darfur, a UNAMID patrol outside El Geneina was prevented from interacting with community members by the Services on 29 March; a UNAMID training activity at the Rongates camp was stopped by the Sudanese police on 4 May; and a UNAMID patrol out of El Geneina was denied access by Military Intelligence on 17 May, and again by the Sudanese Armed Forces on 1 June. In South Darfur, a UNAMID assessment mission with two local partners was stopped by the Services claiming that non-UNAMID personnel did not have security clearance on 10 May. In North Darfur, a patrol of UNAMID from Sortony to Rockero was stopped at the military checkpoint on 15 June — no particular reason was provided.

31. UNAMID also continued to experience flight restrictions. During the reporting period, 68 sorties, or 29 regularly scheduled flights to 18 destinations, were cancelled owing to the lack of clearance by the authorities. These included repeated cancellations of flights to Sortony, North Darfur, on 9, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 23, 26, 27 and 30 April and 1, 3, 4, 7 and 12 May.

Attacks against United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations and humanitarian personnel

32. The number of attacks against United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations continued to decline, from three in the previous reporting period to two during the period under review. On 27 March, a national staff member of WFP was robbed in Nyala, South Darfur, and on 5 April, three local staff members of an international non-governmental organization were robbed near El Geneina, West Darfur.

Denial of access for and restrictions imposed on humanitarian actors

33. Humanitarian organizations regularly reported having encountered challenges in their humanitarian action and protection activities owing to access restrictions, interference with programme administration and implementation by the authorities and the impact of ongoing hostilities and incidents of violence and intimidation.

34. Inter-agency and/or other independent needs assessments relating to displacement in the Jebel Marra have not been permitted by the Government in a number of areas of reported displacement, in particular Central Darfur. In East Darfur, an inter-agency mission to assess the situation of the South Sudanese refugees in several locations was denied clearance three times, before it was finally conducted from 10 to 11 May.

35. In May, the Government issued new directives, including a reduction in the duration of travel permits from one year to six months, the suspension of expedited customs procedures for humanitarian goods and additional restrictions on the dissemination of humanitarian information. These actions run contrary to international norms and humanitarian standards and, if implemented, would inhibit the international community's ability to implement its response.

Visas and customs clearance

36. During the reporting period, the Government rejected 6 visa requests, compared with 5 in the previous reporting period, while 992 were approved, the majority of which were for police personnel. On 24 February, UNAMID submitted a list of 29 priority visa requests from the 97 requests rejected in 2015, and, thus far, 20 of the 29 have been approved. As at 15 June, 57 visa requests remained pending from those submitted in 2016. The number of visas issued to substantive personnel in the protection of civilians and humanitarian liaison sections in 2016 increased. In May, the Sudanese Ministry for Foreign Affairs indicated it would not renew the residence permit of the Head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Sudan, resulting in his de facto expulsion.

37. Following the third technical-level meeting with the Government of the Sudan, on 15 June, 106 ration shipments consisting of 142 containers were cleared for release from Port Sudan. Meanwhile, 314 shipments of United Nations-owned equipment and contingent-owned equipment, some of which have been there since April 2015, remain in Port Sudan and Khartoum, pending customs approval. Those shipments contain military and police assets, such as armoured personnel carriers, vehicles, spare parts and self-sustainment supplies, and the resulting shortages have not only severely hampered the ability of UNAMID troops to communicate, conduct robust patrols and protect civilians, but also resulted in demurrage charges and additional costs for the troop- and police-contributing countries to inspect and repair their equipment.

VI. Mandate implementation

A. Support for an inclusive peace process

High-level mediation

38. On 15 and 16 April, the Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator met with the leadership of the Justice and Equality Movement/Gibril faction (JEM/Gibril) and SLA/MM in Addis Ababa, who expressed their readiness for further discussions with the Government, facilitated by UNAMID and Qatar. The two groups held further consultations with the Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar and UNAMID in Doha on 30 and 31 May to discuss issues relating to the peace process, including their concerns with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. The SLA/AW representative remained outside of the process, despite indicating to the Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator his intention to participate in consultations scheduled for 12 to 14 June in Geneva, to discuss the Doha Document.

Implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

39. The eleventh meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur was held in Khartoum on 9 May. As the tenure of the Darfur Regional Authority was to expire in July, the Government indicated that several commissions and funding structures created under the Doha Document would continue under a new mechanism, placed under the presidency, to ensure the full implementation of pending issues. It was also agreed that the Commission would continue to monitor the implementation of the remaining provisions of the Doha Document.

40. Further to the release of 6.4 million Sudanese pounds, equivalent to $1 million, or 50 per cent of the pledge made by the Government for the second phase of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation in February, the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an agreement on 16 March for the latter to manage the funds. The Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation Implementation Committee, in collaboration with UNAMID, began preparing for the holding of consultations in 26 localities in Darfur.

41. From 18 April to 9 May, in El Fasher, UNAMID supported the demobilization of 779 ex-combatants from the Liberation and Justice Movement and Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan and from the outstanding caseload from the Darfur Peace Agreement. Community-based reintegration began for 700 ex-combatants, with the support of UNDP and funding from Qatar.

42. In addition, UNAMID, in collaboration with the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Darfur Regional Authority, held conferences on the control of small arms and light weapons in El Fasher on 18 and 19 April and in El Geneina on 6 and 7 March. Discussions focused on the way forward for the reduction of the number of weapons held by civilians and gun safety measures through the proposed establishment of an arms registration and marking process in communities across Darfur. UNAMID donated gun-marking machines, compressors and gun lockers to the Commission in West Darfur and provided technical and logistical support.

B. Protection of civilians

Provision of physical protection

43. In accordance with its strategy for the protection of civilians, UNAMID focused on providing targeted responses to civilians under threat by increasing synergy within the mission and with humanitarian partners and fostering interaction with local community members to inform patrol planning and execution at the team site level. Despite those efforts, civilians, in particular women and children, remained vulnerable to attacks, especially while undertaking livelihood activities such as farming and collecting firewood. UNAMID continued to explore ways to address those specific protection issues.

44. UNAMID conducted 23,360 patrols, as compared with 19,417 in the previous reporting period, comprising 8,090 routine patrols, 9,620 short-range patrols, 480 long-range patrols, 2,654 night patrols, 576 humanitarian escorts and 1,941 logistics and administrative escorts covering 7,364 villages and 3,024 camps for internally displaced persons.

45. UNAMID police personnel conducted 8,706 patrols as compared with 8,741 patrols in the same period in 2015, comprising 4,672 confidence-building patrols to camps for internally displaced persons and 4,034 patrols to protect women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside such camps, including market, village, town, areas of return and commercial routes patrols. Those efforts resulted in 777 criminal cases being reported to UNAMID (compared with 574 cases reported in the same period in 2015), which resulted in 178 arrests by the Sudanese police.

46. In response to the influx of internally displaced persons from the Jebel Marra at its team site in Sortony, North Darfur, UNAMID continued to conduct day and night patrols inside and outside the camp and to establish static positions inside the camp to monitor the situation. A protection network committee and an integrated field protection team have been established to strengthen coordination, dialogue, early warning and timely response to protection threats.

47. UNAMID continued to support the clearance of explosive remnants of war and conducted general hazard assessments in 22 villages, primarily in North and South Darfur. UNAMID located and destroyed 1,297 items of unexploded ordnance, including a 500-lb aircraft-delivered bomb in Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur, and 146 rounds of small arms ammunition. UNAMID reached 92,285 beneficiaries with 1,184 risk education sessions on explosive remnants of war in areas identified as high priority, owing to their level of contamination and accident reporting, as well as areas where internally displaced persons were arriving from the Jebel Marra. In addition, UNAMID, with a view to promoting safe practices in weapons and ammunition safety in selected police stations, initiated 13 projects for the refurbishment of basic weapons and ammunition storage facilities in Ed Daein, Nyala and El Geneina.

Logistic and security support to humanitarian operations

48. During the reporting period, UNAMID military personnel provided 411 round-trip escorts for humanitarian partners undertaking the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the monitoring of the humanitarian and protection situation, the majority of which were carried out in North Darfur. In addition, UNAMID formed police units provided 73 humanitarian escorts, mainly in North and South Darfur, including for the delivery of food and non-food items to Kutum, Kabkabiya, Sortony, El Sireaf, Tawilla and Korma in North Darfur.

49. UNAMID provided escorts two to three times per week for humanitarian convoys between Kabkabiya and Sortony, in addition to providing daily escorts for water trucks from Kobe to Sortony. In support of humanitarian partners, UNAMID also dug a borehole and provided four tankers and generators for water trucking and pumping at a water point near Sotorny and is digging three more boreholes. With the logistical support of UNAMID for the rehabilitation of the helipad, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service launched twice-weekly flights between El Fasher and Sortony on 29 May.

Promoting a protective environment

50. The human rights situation remained volatile and unpredictable, with continued clashes in the Jebel Marra making communities in the area vulnerable. Attacks against civilians worsened on account of the alleged complicity of the

Sudanese security forces and the perceived lack of police interest in apprehending perpetrators. Women and girls continued to be exposed to sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence.

51. During the reporting period, UNAMID documented 120 new incidents of human rights violations and abuses, involving 387 victims (including 27 children), compared with 132 such incidents involving 338 victims during the previous period. The violation of the right to life accounted for 27 cases, involving 130 victims; the right to physical integrity accounted for 41 cases, involving 108 victims; sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence in the form of rape, accounted for 24 cases, involving 61 victims (including 16 children); and the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest and illegal detention accounted for 14 cases, involving 60 victims. There were 14 cases of abduction, involving 28 victims. In 44 cases, involving 161 victims, assailants were identified as government security forces and allied groups. The remaining 76 cases, involving 226 victims, were perpetrated by unidentified armed men.

52. Of these reports, UNAMID confirmed the occurrence of 74 cases of human rights violations and abuses through field missions, visits to camps for internally displaced persons and trial monitoring. The remaining 46 cases could not be verified, owing in part to movement restrictions imposed by the Government. Access issues, relating in particular to the Jebel Marra, were also attributable to the fall in the number of reported cases and prevented UNAMID from interacting with displaced persons and host communities. Such interaction is critical for interviewing victims and witnesses and documenting human rights incidents. For example, internally displaced persons at the North camp, Central Darfur, reported on 18 April that they had been instructed by the authorities not to release any information to UNAMID. Moreover, civil society groups operating health-care centres were not allowed to deal with cases involving conflict-related, sexual and gender-based violence, especially in Central Darfur.

53. Widespread impunity remained a major challenge, aggravated by a capacity deficit on the part of State institutions, the absence of a security environment conducive to civilian safety across Darfur and excesses in the exercise of power by security forces. For example, on 24 March, a female student was intercepted on her way to the University of El Geneina by the National Intelligence and Security Services and assaulted. Similarly, seven students from Nyala University who were arrested on 26 April for demonstrating against the increase in public transport fees reported having been beaten in detention. In an encouraging development, on 10 May, a court in El Geneina, convicted and sentenced a 25-year-old man and Sudanese soldier to 20 years' imprisonment for the rape of a 7-year-old girl.

54. UNAMID carried out capacity-building initiatives for Sudanese police officers, including a training course on criminal investigation, English-language classes and a workshop on gender mainstreaming and sexual exploitation and abuse, in addition to training for community policing volunteers. As part of crime prevention initiatives in camps for internally displaced persons, 214 joint patrols were conducted with the involvement of 267 community policing volunteers. In addition, UNAMID held 150 awareness-raising sessions for internally displaced persons on sexual violence, safety and security issues, highlighting the importance of reporting criminal cases to the police and seeking medical treatment for the victims. A total of 254 visits were conducted to police stations and detention centres

to monitor the conditions of children in juvenile detention centres and those living with their mothers in such facilities. Five workshops on gender mainstreaming, sexual and gender-based violence and livelihood skills were conducted for 163 internally displaced persons (82 men and 81 women) in the north, south and east sectors.

55. In a positive development, the Supreme Court Division for Darfur States was inaugurated in Nyala on 13 April, following advocacy by UNAMID. The Division has already undertaken case reviews and released 512 prisoners from prisons in Darfur, many of whom were minor offenders or mothers accompanied by young children. Similarly, following advocacy and capacity-building support from UNAMID, the General Directorate for Prisons and Reform recruited 350 prison officers, 79 of them women, during the reporting period. In South Darfur, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNAMID engaged the Ministry of Social Affairs, the peace and security department of the University of Nyala and other government ministries in a process that resulted in the release of 30 female inmates from Nyala prison, who then received livelihood support.

56. On 27 March, my Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict witnessed the signing of the action plan by the United Nations and Government on protecting children from violations during armed conflict, including through the cessation and prevention of child recruitment in Darfur and the Sudan at large. The visit also provided an opportunity to gain access to 21 children allegedly recruited by JEM/Gibril and captured during military operations in Darfur in April 2015. The United Nations Children's Fund and UNAMID continue to work with the Government to expedite the release of the children and their reunification with their families. In addition to those advocacy efforts, UNAMID provided capacity-building and training on child rights and child protection for 1,149 people (510 women and 639 men), including Sudanese police officers, prison workers, personnel from the Ministry of Social Affairs, community policing volunteers, internally displaced persons and community members.

57. In an effort to bolster dialogue and enhance the peace process, more than 130 women leaders benefited from a programme entitled "Darfur women talking peace", designed by UNAMID to discuss peace messages in communities, including in the women's prison in El Fasher on 20 and 21 April. In West Darfur, UNAMID, in collaboration with UNFPA, hosted 100 women in a discussion on the key concern of disparity between traditional laws and Sudanese law. UNAMID also trained members of civil society organizations on gender mainstreaming.

C. Local conflict mediation

58. UNAMID took measures to mitigate tensions between communities affected by incidents of intercommunal violence. In the aftermath of the attacks against internally displaced persons in Sortony, North Darfur, UNAMID initiated the reconciliation process between nomads and those displaced, including a meeting on 17 and 18 May between leaders of the Northern Rezeigat and Fur tribes in Sortony. UNAMID sought to facilitate the reopening of the road between Kabkabiya and Sortony, but Northern Rezeigat continued to refuse the proposal, demanding the release of two Rezeigat arrested for the attack against the camp in Sortony. In East

Darfur, following the incident at the village of Tortahan that led to attacks against its governor in April, UNAMID undertook intensive consultation efforts with Southern Rezeigat and Ma'alia communities to ease tensions and begin the reconciliation process.

59. In South Darfur, UNAMID continued to facilitate reconciliation between Salamat and Fallata, following their clashes in February, by supporting a peace conference held from 14 to 18 May by the Darfur Regional Authority and the state mediation committee. The two communities signed a revised peace agreement. In addition, UNAMID and native administrations conducted a peace conference in Graida on 17 and 18 May to ensure the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement signed in 2015 between the Fallata and Massalit. Participants recommended the formation of a joint peace committee to review land disputes.

60. In West Darfur, UNAMID held eight dialogue and consultation forums, from 11 to 25 May, with a view to preventing conflicts between farmers and nomadic herders in the forthcoming planting season. A total of 453 participants, representing farmers, nomadic communities, native and religious leaders, returnees, internally displaced persons and local authorities, took part in the process.

61. In North Darfur, UNAMID continued to engage with traditional leaders and local and state authorities from Berti and Zeyadiyah, urging them to hold their reconciliation conference.

VII. Transfer of mandated tasks and cooperation with the United Nations country team

62. The lack of sufficient funding and human resources for the United Nations country team continued to pose a challenge to the transfer of tasks. In the meantime, UNAMID has concluded its operations in several tasks relating to the rule of law, including support for legal aid, and is narrowing the geographical scope of its support for the criminal justice chain in areas to which internally displaced persons have returned or are likely to return. The joint programme developed by UNAMID and the country team for the rule of law in Darfur for the period from 2016 to 2019 is designed to enable the latter, pending donor support, to progressively assume many of the transferred tasks. UNAMID and the country team convened donor meetings jointly to mobilize funding for the programme in Khartoum on 24 April and 2 June.

VIII. Financial aspects

63. The General Assembly, by its resolution 69/261 B, appropriated the amount of $1,102.2 million for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. As at 13 June 2016, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNAMID amounted to $253.3 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $2,232.9 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs has been made for the period up to 30 April 2016, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 31 December 2015, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations

64. While an estimated 2.6 million people remain displaced in Darfur, and fighting between government forces and SLA/AW in the Jebel Marra continues, the political process to agree on a framework for peace in Darfur is yet to be concluded. I commend and continue to support the efforts of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, the Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator and other partners to seek a negotiated solution to the conflict. I am concerned by the continued absence of SLA/AW from the negotiating table, and I urge them to participate constructively in the process. In our special report of 8 June (S/2016/510), the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and I called upon the broader Sudanese opposition to adhere to the road map agreement proposed by the Panel, which was signed by the Government in April. This would represent a considerable step towards ending the conflicts in the Sudan, enabling the provision of assistance to communities in need and enhancing the environment for a credible and inclusive national dialogue.

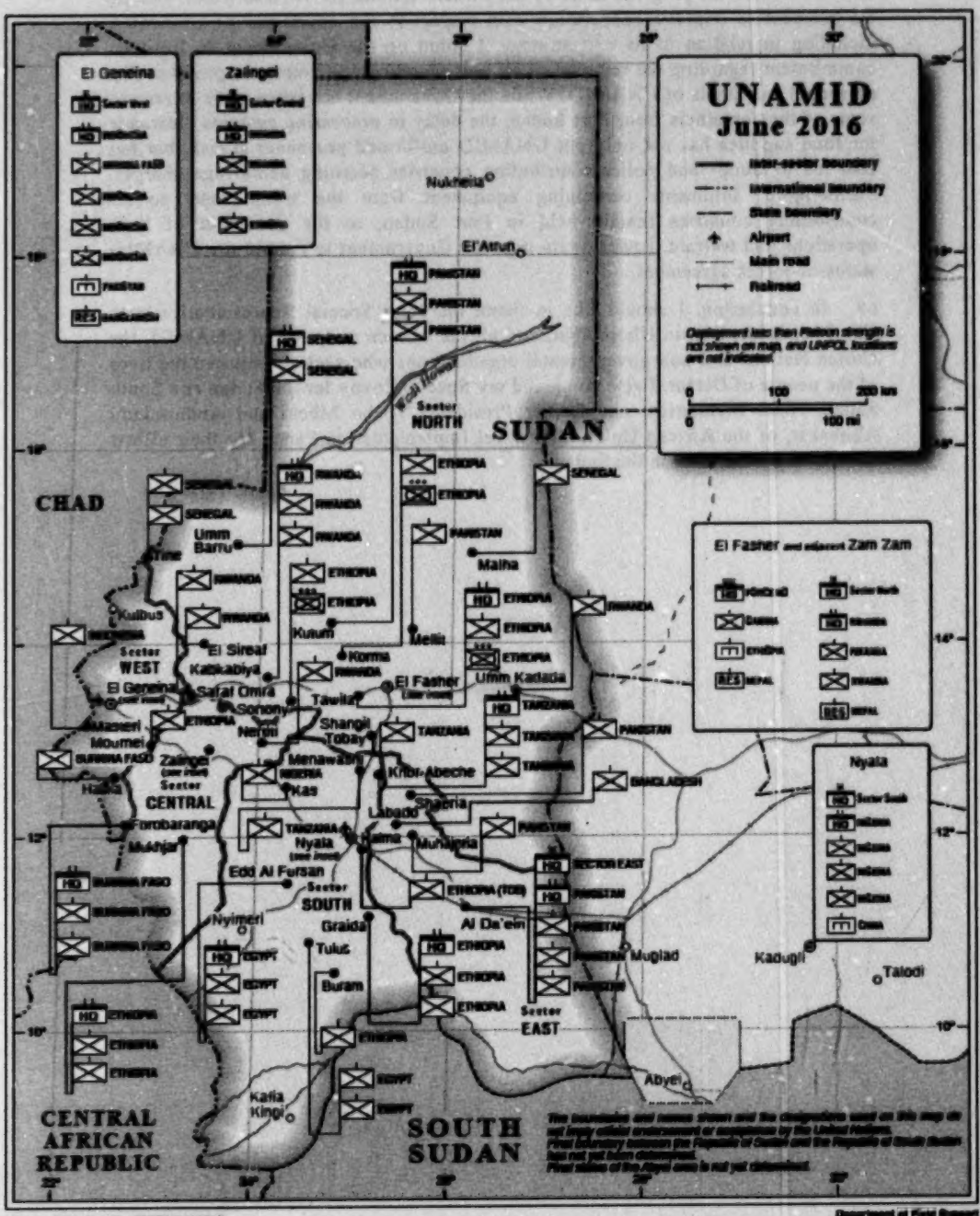
65. Continued access restrictions imposed by the Government in Central Darfur have prevented UNAMID and humanitarian partners from undertaking verification missions and assessment exercises. Consequently, the full scale of humanitarian and protection needs remains unknown, and thousands of affected civilians remain without assistance. I reiterate my call upon both the Government and SLA/AW to cease fighting to allow full and unhindered humanitarian access to the civilian population in all locations, including the Jebel Marra, and urge the Government to give priority to political negotiations, as agreed during the deliberations of the Joint Working Group. I remind all parties to the conflict that they have an obligation under international law to protect civilians and to allow unhindered access for humanitarian assistance.

66. I remain concerned that intercommunal violence continues to be a major source of insecurity for civilians. Recurrences of clashes, despite government interventions, as well as repeated attacks against internally displaced persons, illustrate the fluidity and fragility of local dynamics, which are exacerbated by the conflict. This highlights the need for concerted efforts to address the root causes of local tensions, especially regarding the management of land, water and other scarce resources, together with efforts to strengthen the rule of law and other dispute-resolution mechanisms without the use of force.

67. Given that the nature of the Darfur conflict remains largely unchanged, I reiterate the recommendations in the special report in which the Chairperson and I requested UNAMID to focus its mandate activities on the following: first, protecting internally displaced persons by prioritizing resources based on a mapping of displacement camps and potential areas of return; and, second, addressing intercommunal violence through the implementation of a mission-wide strategy based on prevention, mitigation and support for the resolution of the root causes of such violence. Concurrently, the uniformed components will take measures to enhance their overall flexibility through the reinforcement of troops at team sites of greater operational significance and the possible reduction or closure of others, the creation of a highly mobile reserve military capability and an increased field presence of police officers from within existing capabilities.

68. I welcome the progress made by the United Nations, the African Union and the Government to improve cooperation with respect to the operations of UNAMID, including in relation to its exit strategy. I count on the Government to fulfil its commitment regarding the removal of all bureaucratic impediments imposed on the personnel and assets of UNAMID. While the Government has taken steps to release some of the containers from Port Sudan, the delay in processing customs clearance for food supplies has not only put UNAMID uniformed personnel at risk, but has also led to troop- and police-contributing countries accruing demurrage charges. Furthermore, shipments containing equipment from the troop- and police-contributing countries remain held in Port Sudan, to the detriment of their operations and welfare. I once again urge the Government to uphold the UNAMID status-of-forces agreement.

69. In conclusion, I should like to thank the Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator, Martin Uhomoibhi, and all the women and men of UNAMID, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations who seek to improve the lives of the people of Darfur. I also commend my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, and former Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Abdulsalami Abubakar, of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, for their efforts to resolve the conflicts in the Sudan.



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